

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

FONTILLANFRAITH, Mon.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1941, I am pleased to state that the health of the Community has been very good and more especially when the conditions which prevail are unfavourable.

The Birth Rate of 17.5 is a little lower than that of last year but is above that of the County and of the Country.

The Death Rate of 9.1 is lower than that of last year and lower than the County.

I am pleased to report that there shows a substantial reduction in the Infantile Mortality with a rate of 47.4 per thousand which is lower than that of the County and less than half of what it was two years ago.

It is also very pleasing to note that there were no cases of Puerperal infection reported.

Tuberculosis shows a slight increase in notification. There were 20 cases, but deaths were 6 compared with 8 of the previous year.

The number of deaths from Cancer was 15, 13 of which were over 65 years.

In notifiable cases there has been a reduction, except in the cases of Pneumonia and Whooping-cough, as will be seen in the table.

Scarlet Fever 16 cases; Cerebro Spinal Fever 11 cases, with no deaths as compared with 15 cases last year and 5 deaths.

There were 51 cases of Measles compared with 196 last year. Diphtheria 18 cases were notified - no deaths, compared with the previous year of 32 cases and one death.

Immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out on 1,609 children, and 93% of these children received both injections. Inoculations were done chiefly at the Schools, and I am grateful to the Teachers for their assistance.

There were a number of contagious skin diseases - scabies and impetigo and literature for dealing with the treatment for same was distributed.

At the end of the year, we had 1,164 Unaccompanied children, 350 Accompanied and 114 Mothers, and in this connection I would like to place on record, the kind interest of the Foster Parents taken in their charges, and also to thank Mrs. Jones, the Hostel, for her attention to the children.

In conclusion, for the help and co-operation which was given me during the year, I wish to thank the following:- Mr. James, Sanitary Inspector, the Council Staff, Drs. Jones and Evans of the Tuberculosis Institute, local Practitioners, and Nurses, Dr. D. Rocyn Jones and staff of the County Hall, Dr. MacMillan and the Matron, Miss Valder, of the Isolation Hospital Bedwellty, and Members of the Council.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	5,415
Population 1941 (estimated - resident)	14,440
Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books.	3,215
Rateable Value	£47,795
Product of Penny Rate	£165: 2: 8½:

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	M.	F.
Live Births - Legitimate	138	104
Illegitimate	10	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population.	17.5	
Deaths	132	
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population.	9.1	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:- All infants per 1,000 live births.	47.42	
Deaths from Cancer - all ages	15	
Deaths from Measles - all ages	-	

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.1. Public Health Officer of the Authority.

A. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.	C.G. Mackay, M.B.
B. Full-time Sanitary and Meat Inspector.	P.S. James, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

2. Laboratory Facilities

County Council.

Ambulance Facilities

An ambulance is provided by private contract and used for general purposes other than for the removal of Infectious Diseases.

Nursing in the Home

District Nursing Association.

Clinic and Treatment Centres

County Council.

Hospitals: Public and Voluntary,

No change from previous report

WATER SUPPLY.

The main source of water supply, which is obtained from the Abertillery and District Water Board, has again, on the whole (during the Year) been excellent in quality and fairly plentiful.

It is pleasing to note that with the exception of a few isolated places, the whole of the district is supplied with water from the Board's main.

The Engineer to the Board takes samples at regular intervals and ensures a safe supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action was taken in relation to the pollution of rivers and streams in the area; the chief pollution of the rivers in these industrial areas is, of course, the coal-dust and this is common in the areas through which the rivers run.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The district is well served with efficient sewers, and practically all houses in all the built-up areas are provided with water closets. There remains, however, a few outlying portions of the area, and houses on the hill-tops, which are not within a reasonable distance of the sewers; these are provided with pail-closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Owing to the war, Salvaging was continued, and it was found necessary to reduce the collection of Refuse from 3 to 2 days per week.

On the disposal of refuse, I am pleased to report that the centralized system of tipping and control is being carried out very satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE YEAR.

(a) Number of Inspections made during the year	830
(b) Number of notices served - Informal	141
Statutory	9

SHOPS.

During the year, the Sanitary Inspector made a survey of all the shops in the area in compliance with the Shops Act, 1934, and reports that nearly all of them are satisfactory. Where they were not in all respects in compliance letters were sent to the occupiers and the matters were immediately attended to.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the district are supplied with a plentiful and good water supply direct from the mains of the respective Water Boards.

The Sanitary Conveniences, and the Schools themselves are of modern construction; periodical inspections are carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and a fairly high standard of cleanliness and order is maintained in and about the Schools.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Extensive facilities are provided for sun-bathing and games. Facilities are also provided for Juvenile instruction and 18 schools received instruction during the past year. The total number of attendances of pupils

who received such instruction was 5,219 and a large number acquired a certificate of proficiency.

The total number of bathers and spectators were as follows:-

Bathers (Adults)	8,857
Bathers (Juvenile) including School classes	21,731
Spectators (Adults)	3,935
Spectators (Juvenile)	3,363
	<hr/>
	37,886
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HOUSING.

1. INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.) | 293 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 475 |
| 2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) which were inspected and recorded under the housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925. | Nil |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | Nil |
| 3. (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | Nil |
| (b) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation. | 141 |

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. (a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority | 129 |
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

- | | |
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| A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 | Nil |
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B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 9 |
| 2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | |
| (a) By owners | 9 |
| (b) By local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |
|---|-----|

- | | |
|--|-----|
| D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 | Nil |
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HOUSING ACT, 1936, - OVERCROWDING.

A number of houses in the district were overcrowded, but owing to people leaving the district, this nuisance has been considerably improved.

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK - The Sanitary Inspector has been visiting the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds within the area during the year and many improvements were effected as a result of such visits.

Special effort was made during the year to take samples of Milk from all producers and retailers in the district (in conjunction with the County Health Department) for the purpose of Bacteriological Examination.

Visits were made frequently to the Shops, Bakchouses and other premises where foodstuffs are prepared and sold.

Vans and Carts used for the hawking of the various food-stuffs were carefully watched and inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

(b) ADULTERATION - The Council is not the Food and Drugs Authority.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS.

All examinations under this heading are carried out by the Laboratories of the County Council.

(d) NUTRITION - No special work has been carried out by your Health Department under this heading.

INQUESTS.

There were five inquests held on persons residing in your area, all of which were Miners.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

A large number of skin diseases occurred in the district, which were dealt with accordingly.

Very little difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission to the Hospitals namely:- Allt-yr-yn Isolation Hospital Newport, Bodwellty Isolation Hospital and Monmouth Isolation Hospital.

The number of cases of each disease that necessitated removal can be seen in the prepared table (Notifiable Diseases)

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin and Streptocido for Puerperal cases is always kept at the Health Department of the Council Offices and the Medical Practitioners in the District make full use of this provision.

When notification of an Infectious Disease is received and enquiries reveal that there are school children in the home, intimation is always sent to the Head Teachers of the respective schools.

After any Infectious Disease all premises and bedding are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES GORDON MACKAY, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>HOSPITAL CASES</u>	<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	16	1	-
Diphtheria	18	10	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	9	-	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	11	11	-
Whooping-cough	12	-	-
Measles	51	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

- (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 176, Public Health Act, 1936.
- (b) TUBERCULOSIS. No action has been taken by the Local Authority under either of the following:-

Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

NEW CASES					DEATHS			
Age	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
20	1	3	-	-	-	2	-	-
25	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	5	8	4	3	1	4	1	-

On receipt of notification of a case of Tuberculosis the Sanitary Inspector pays a visit to the house to ascertain conditions and to give a supply of disinfectant.

Where the patients are removed to Hospital or Sanatorium the Inspector again pays a visit and causes the premises to be fumigated and in some cases walls are stripped, and bedding etc., destroyed. In the absence of a Steam Disinfecter bedding and other clothes cannot be treated as effectively as desired.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING, 1941.Name of District - Mynyddislwyn U.D.C.

Population.	Nett Births		Total deaths registered in the District.	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
14,440	253	17.5	132	9.1

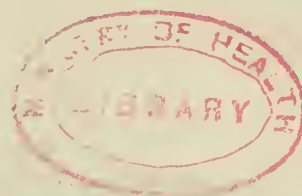
Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District	
Non residents registered in the District	Residents not in the District	Under 1 yr.	All ages.
		No. Rate.	No. Rate.
Nil	38	2 7.9	159 11.01

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1941.NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT AGES UNDER ONE YEAR.

<u>CAUSES.</u>	<u>Under 1 week.</u>	<u>1 - 4 weeks.</u>	<u>1 mth. - 12mths.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Convulsions.	-	-	3	3
Gastritis.	1	1	-	2
Meningitis (not Tuberculosis)	-	-	-	-
Bronchial Pneumonia	1	1	2	4
Premature Birth	2	1	-	3
	4	3	5	12

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1941.Name of District - MYNYDDISLEWYN U.D.C.

CAUSES.	Nett Deaths at the subjoining ages of "Residents" occurring within the District (a)								TOTAL DEATHS IN THE DISTRICT
	Under 1 yr.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All Causes (Certified (Uncertified.									
Meningitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cancer.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	13	15
Arterio Sclerosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
Heart.	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	19	30
Rheumatic Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis.	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	4	12
Gastro Enteritis.	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Broncho -Pneumonia.	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Senile Decay.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Influenza.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	5
Exophthalmic Goitre.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asthenia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pernicious Anaemia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Premature Birth.	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	4
Convulsions.	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Silico Anthracosis.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Other Defined Causes.	1	-	-	2	3	5	4	2	17
TOTAL.	12	3	-	3	5	10	25	63	121

MYNYDDISLWYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1941.

Health Department,

Council Offices,

PONTLLANFRAITH.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HARROLD & GENTLEMEN,

I am again privileged to submit my report for the year ended the 31st December, 1941.

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	141
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	9
Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	830

Below is given a list of the sanitary defects which were remedied:-

Main, Pantry & W.C. roofs repaired.	78
Eaves, gutters & down pipes provided & repaired	122
Defective drains repaired	37
Drains opened and cleansed	78
New Flush Tanks in W.C.'s	16
Flush Tanks repaired in W.C.'s	64
New Pans in W.C.'s	15
Ventilation Shafts repaired	17
Dilapidated W.C.'s repaired	24
Defective W.C. joints etc.,	41
New W.C.'s provided	-
Houses repaired (external)	72
Houses repaired (internal)	53
Coss pools cleansed	1
Fowls-cot nuisances abated	-
Pig-sty nuisances abated	3
Conversion of Pails into W.C.'s	-
Overcrowding abated	12
Dilapidated back-yard re-paved	17
Dirty premises	8

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of Slaughterhouses on register	3
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Number of visits made	Nil.
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT - These important duties were discharged with the same vigilance as in the past.

Since the Ministry of Food brought about the centralization of slaughtering, it was not found necessary to pay visits to any of your private Slaughterhouses in your district, as all food animals were slaughtered at the "Buttry Hatch" Slaughterhouse, Maesycwmmwr. However, inspections to the Meat Purveyors' Shops had to be carried out with the same care as in the past.

Full advantage was again taken by persons who reared pigs on cottage premises, or small holdings, and killed thereon after due notice of intended slaughter in accordance with the stipulations of the Ministry of Health Circular (604), the special provisions granted by the Council, and in accordance with an order made by the Ministry of Food.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

In conjunction with the Health Department of the County Council, 50 samples of milk (including repeat samples) were taken for bacteriological examination and for the detection of tubercle bacilli. Some of the samples were taken at the farm premises, but the majority were ladled out of jacks, serving pails, and churns of retailers on the street; and the standard, bacteriologically, on the whole was fairly satisfactory.

Retailers whose samples were not of the desired standard were notified and interviewed personally, and where repeat sampling and consultations proved unsatisfactory, the vendors responsible were reported to the Council and further measures were taken to ensure that these samples were brought up to a satisfactory standard.

I am pleased to report that no Tubercle Bacilli were found in any of the samples taken. The carton system of milk delivery has not with one exception been introduced into this district, but a number of milk purveyors deliver their milk in sealed bottles.

The general standard of your milk supply is a fairly good one.

Numerous visits were made to the cowsheds and dairies during the year, and it was only in a few cases that the cleanliness was not up to expectations. The farmer was spoken to and at the time of the re-visit the conditions were improved.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Cowsheds on register	55
Number of retail purveyors on register	53
Number of wholesale purveyors on register	19
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	153

UN SOUND MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following articles were surrendered and destroyed during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

CANNED GOODS.

Tins		Tins	
Tin Milk	40	Sardines	9
Salmon	114	Corn Beef	5 - 6 lb. Tins.



	Tins		Tins
Asparagus	4	Stewed Beef	6
Tomatoes	18	Minced Meat	6
Beans	6	Peas	10
Cherries	3	Sausage	5
Herrings	5	Plums	41
Chopped Ham	12 lbs.	Jam	16 pots.
Fruit	83 lbs.	Beef	582 lbs.
Milk	9 glns.		

FRIED FISH AND ICE CREAM SHOPS.

The premises that come under the above heading were visited regularly. It was not found necessary to serve any notices or take any "formal" action.

ICE CREAM :- Most of the ice cream sold in your district was produced under hygienic conditions, by persons who appreciate the necessity for scrupulous cleanliness in its production, but there is (in my opinion) still need for a legal standard for ice cream.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified:-

Small Pox	--
Scarlet Fever	16
Diphtheria	18
Enteric Fever	-
Tuberculosis - all forms	20
Erysipelas	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	11

CINEMAS.

Number in the area	2
Inspections made	4
Notices served	-

HOUSING.

With the increase in population, overcrowding and numerous housing difficulties arose. As I am also the Chief Billeting Officer I was constantly kept in touch with these matters, and able to deal with them accordingly.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Owing to the strenuous efforts made in past years to prevent the erection of this type of building for human habitation, very little trouble has been experienced during the year in respect to any new-comers and no case has been before the Courts.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number in the area	1
Inspections made	3
Notices served	-

INCREASE OF RENTS AND MORTGAGE (INTEREST) RESTRICTION ACTS.

No application was made for a certificate under the above Act during the year

ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Number of	a.1 - Council Houses infested	6
	b.2 - Council Houses disinfested	6
	a.1 - Other Houses infested	3
	b.2. - Other Houses disinfested	3

The methods employed for freeing the infested houses from bed bugs is by stripping, spraying, the use of a Painter's Blow-Lamp and in some cases Sulphur Candles.

All vacant Council Houses are immediately notified to the Health Department. A visit is then made to the premises and if necessary disinfection is carried out before the in-going tenant occupies the premises.

No steps were taken to ensure that the beds of in-going tenants were free from bugs.

Disinfection is carried out in the Council Houses by direct labour, and in other cases this work is undertaken by the owners or occupiers.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The powers exercisable by the Monmouthshire County Council having been delegated to the Council, are being administered (on your instructions) by myself. The Sewers, Taps, Water Courses, and all property likely to be rat infested have been systematically baited during the year, with good results.

It is regretted that some property Owners and Occupiers still prefer to tolerate this very costly and objectionable nuisance, rather than construct their premises on rat-proof lines, and attempt to eliminate all waste material, so that no access or harbourage can be afforded these vermin. This part of the work demands a fair amount of my time, and to succeed in keeping these pests within a reasonable number requires periodical baiting and investigation. The baits used are Cyanogas, Barium Carbonate and Biscuits.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power.	21	2	-
Factories without mechanical power.	16	2	-
Other premises	4	-	-
TOTAL.	41	4	-

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2		
Overcrowding				
Unreasonable Temperature				
Inadequate Ventilation				
Ineffective drainage of floors				
San. Cons. - insufficient.				
Unsuitable or defective	2	2		
Not separate for sexes.				
	4	4		

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Harrold & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PERCY S. JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.

